

20 October 1962

Notes to Speech Draft

1. Emphasize by a short second paragraph that this evidence has come to light only in the last week subsequent to the adjournment of the Congress, and that it reflects a clear effort to effect the maximum possible speed and secrecy in the buildup. This would be aimed in part at the members of Congress who have been repeatedly briefed and assured that there was no good evidence of offensive weapons. (This was said by General Carter and Secretary Rusk at several times in September, and most recently by Mr. William Bundy to the Mahon Subcommittee as recently as ~~5 October~~ ^{28 SEPT.}.) A sentence might be added that the President is bringing the facts clearly to the American people at the earliest possible moment consistent with their accurate interpretation and with the consistent development of the proper course of action. Perhaps emphasize that this information was not available in any form while the Congress was still in session, and that the Administration has consistently followed the practice of informing the Congress of the facts at the earliest time it could be done without prejudice to intelligence sources.

2. Add to the top of the second page quotes from the Congressional Resolution, and perhaps also from the President's statements. The quotes from the Resolution would help to identify the Congress clearly with approval of this type of action and would at the least gain some good will with such key Senators as Russell who worked on the Resolution. . . . Then, perhaps making a separate paragraph, hit even harder at the repeated Soviet statements as deliberate deception. It must be recalled, however, that

the Soviets will probably be able to point to one or more US statements in the past that our base structure, including missile bases, was clearly defensive in purpose. Don't see how to deal with this in the statement, but perhaps it could be stated that in the context of the then publicly known facts these statements could not have had an ambiguous interpretation as to offensive-vs-defensive distinctions.